



# BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

If you are a regular reader of the Friday Update, you have seen how frequently our officers handle calls of people threatening to jump off of one of our two bridges. There were two more this past week, including one last Monday night where Officer Cory Ditmer responded to the Manette Bridge to assist a young woman sitting on the outside of the south railing. She was despondent and soaking wet, sitting in the pouring rain with the temperature dropping into the mid 30's. Officer Ditmer approached and helped her off the rail. She was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Our Sergeant titled this one "A Shoplifter? Not in Bremerton!" Seven, yes seven, officers responded to a shoplifting in progress at the Safeway on Callow Avenue Monday. It just so happened it occurred during a quiet time. Despite the number of cars swarming the area, the suspect was not caught until Officer Tim Garrity saw a taxi leaving the area with a single passenger. Using his powers of awesomeness, and the fact that witnesses saw the suspect trying to flag down a taxi earlier, Officer Garrity stopped the taxi and detained the suspect.

In our ongoing societal discussions about what to do about homelessness, you have read my opinion that we need to differentiate homeless people from "criminal vagrants" - people who are predatory, victimize others, and are floating around taking advantage of other people to support their own destructive lifestyle. We had a case this week that clearly illustrates that distinction: Officers were called to an address on Phinney Bay Drive regarding an assault on the homeowner. Officers had dealt with the man who lives there before - his wife recently died, and he is having a very hard time, including standing in front of a downtown store, looking confused and saying he "needs friends". He is going through a difficult period in his life and is very vulnerable. On this date, the man had left his own house and fled to a neighbor's house and they called 911. Transients, or criminal vagrants with whom we are very familiar, had moved into his house and were taking advantage of this man. Officers contacted what they described as "an all-star line-up" of transient drug users in the house. All were either told to leave or were transported away. One of these vagrants was told to leave and not return, and if she did she would be arrested. She did return and was found in the kitchen; she was jailed for criminal trespassing. This person has 134 involvements with our department and 11 jail booking photos. Adult Protective Services, along with our officers, will keep checking on the man at his house. As we look for ways to better serve the homeless population, we need to keep in mind that we should not be enabling criminal vagrants and doing anything to allow them to continue to victimize other people, who are vulnerable, afraid, or who have issues related to mental illness.

Last Thursday night our Sgt. Davis reported that a 22 year-old man was driving a really nice BMW with his girlfriend next to him when he took the turn onto eastbound 11th St from Kitsap Way too fast for conditions in the very cold and frosty weather. The driver lost control, overcorrected and drove up over the tall sidewalk, and head-on into the guardrail. The impact broke the guardrail. The vehicle careened off of the guardrail and back into the roadway. The BMW had extensive damage. Here is the strangest part - the driver was sober. You see everything in this job.

Officer Jordan Ejde spotted a man with an outstanding arrest warrant from the court at a gas station on Burwell Street. The man crouched down behind the glass in the station, hoping Jordan wouldn't see him. Unfortunately, the man doesn't realize we can see through glass. He was arrested on his Dept. of Corrections warrant and taken to jail.

For the past several days, officers have been investigating a string of forgeries involving a man passing bad checks to various businesses around town, to the tune of thousands of dollars. The man was creating checks with a fictitious business name through a local bank. The bank has confirmed the account on the checks is not valid. Officers had developed probable cause to arrest the man for forgery. Saturday night, Officer Brandon Greenhill spotted the suspect walking in the area of 8th Street and Broadway Avenue, and made contact. The man lied about his name and date of birth, but was taken into custody. A search revealed a container with both methamphetamine and heroin, and his backpack contained two books of these fictitious business bank checks, and receipts of checks he has written all over town. Shaunte Bemby was booked into the Kitsap County Jail for Forgery, Controlled Substance Violations, and Providing False information to a Police Officer, and a Felony arrest warrant for Failure to Pay Child Support, for good measure. Great work by Officer Greenhill and the team, getting this one-man crime wave off the

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streets!

Retired Bremerton Sgt. Bill Endicott, who has moved out of state, shares this next one with us: Officer Todd Byers is a huge Pittsburgh Steeler fan, and has been talking smack for several weeks before last week's Seahawk's game. Bill and Todd made a long-distance wager on the Pittsburgh - Seahawk game, where the loser had to donate \$25 to the Wounded Warrior Project, and then post a photo of himself in front of his computer as he makes that online donation. Bill was happy to send along the photo below of a clearly chastened Officer Byers making good on the bet.



Finally, after last week's tragic shooting in San Bernardino, many people are wondering what they can do if something like this ever happened to them. [This video](#) is the best I have seen, providing information that is simple, direct and easy to remember. I encourage you to take a look - it's only five minutes long: <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0>.

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